

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for closing a the-rear flap in a self-dimensioning machine for closing the-upper flaps of parallelepiped boxes of the-type, said device comprising

a base with support surface for the boxes,

a couple of drive belts placed at two opposite sides of said support surface that can be ~~meterised~~ motorized ~~placed at the two sides of said support surface~~ and that can be brought close to each other to make a drive engagement with opposite the-sides of the boxes to drive the boxes along a feed direction,

a head assembly movably arranged above said support surface, that carries closing devices for closing the front, rear and side flaps of the boxes and can be commanded to descend from a rest position to engage the ~~above-mentioned~~ closing devices with the upper flaps of the boxes and provide for closing ~~them~~ the boxes, and

height detecting means for detecting ~~the-a height position and the dimensions of the boxes for the automatic command of the movements of the machine~~,

said head assembly comprises a vertically movable head and a vertically mobile touching group that are separately commanded to descend in succession towards said support surface up to respective positions depending on the height of the box detected by said height detecting means, and

said closing devices ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprise a rod for straightening the rear flap, that is pivoted on said head and is automatically ~~can-be~~

commanded at an end of a descent of a head to rotate from a substantially horizontal rest position to a vertical working position and to translate in said the same feed direction of the box to carry out ~~the~~ straightening of the rear flap, ~~a vertically mobile touching group that can be commanded to descend towards said support surface up to a position depending on the height of the box and~~

a lever pivoted on said touching group downstream from said straightening rod and flexibly kept in an angular position suitable for causing meeting its inclined a surface thereof, as a result of ~~during~~ the descent of the touching group, to contact the straightened rear flap and thus to cause the movement of the rear flap in a closing position.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that said lever is yieldingly flexibly kept in said angular position by a pneumatic cylinder.

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 3, wherein characterised in that said lever is L-shaped with a first arm forming said ~~inclined~~ surface and a second arm connected to said pneumatic cylinder.

5. (New) Device according to claim 1, wherein said rod for straightening the rear flap is provided with first drive means to cause rotation of the rod from the horizontal rest position to the vertical working position responsively to positioning of the head at a height corresponding to the height detected by said detecting means and second drive means to cause subsequent

translation of the rod in the box feed direction.

6. (New) Device according to claim 5, wherein said touching group is provided with drive means to cause its initial descent to a height just higher than the box height responsively to positioning of the head at a height corresponding to the height detected by said detecting means and a final descent to the box height responsively to the translation of the rod in the box feed direction.